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HIGHLIGHTS:

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Hogs & Pigs
Red Meat Production
Mink Production
Wheat & Barley Varieties
Milk Production
Egg Production

July 1 Cattle Inventory

The all cattle and calf inventory in Montana was 3.40 million head on July 1, 2003, up 1 percent from a year ago, but down 3 percent from July 2001. Spring rainfall helped pasture and hay growth in many areas of the state and temporarily relieved drought concerns, however recent heat and dry conditions is quickly deteriorating pasture and range conditions.

Pasture and range conditions are rated 7% very poor, 15% poor, 35% fair, 37% good, and 6% excellent which is better than a year ago at this time.

The beef cow inventory in the state rose 1 percent from a year ago to 1.482 million head. Milk cow inventory remained unchanged from last year at 18,000 head. The 2003 calf crop is expected to be 1.5 million head, up slightly from a year ago.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2003, totaled 103.9 million head, 1 percent below the 105.1 million on July 1, 2002 and 2 percent below the 105.8 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.7 million, were slightly below the 42.9 million on July 1, 2002 and 1 percent below the 43.0 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 33.6 million, were down slightly from July 1, 2002 and 1 percent below two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.1 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 2002 but were unchanged from two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 2003 and the changes from July 1, 2002, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 15.9 million, down 2 percent.

- Beef replacement heifers, 4.6 million, unchanged.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.6 million, down 3 percent.
- Other heifers, 7.7 million, down 3 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.2 million, down 2 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, unchanged.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 29.0 million, down 1 percent.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 11.7 million, down 6 percent.

The 2003 calf crop is expected to be 38.0 million, down 1 percent from 2002 and down 1 percent from 2001. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.7 million, down 1 percent from 2002 and down 1 percent from 2001.

July 1 Sheep Inventory

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2003, totaled 7.80 million head, 4 percent below July 1, 2002. Breeding sheep inventory at 4.61 million head on July 1, 2003 was 4 percent below July 1, 2002. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs) at 3.19 million head, were 4 percent below last July.

The breeding herd consists of 3.84 million ewes one year old and older, 175,000 rams one year old and older, and 600,000 replacement lambs (including newborn lambs).

Region 3 (CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY) accounted for 33.3 percent of the total sheep and lambs. Region 2 (NM & TX) accounted for 22.3 percent, Region 1 (AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA) for 17.1 percent, Region 4 (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK) for 15.6 percent, and Region 5 (all other states) accounted for 11.7 percent.

The 2003 lamb crop in the United States is expected to total 4.13 million head, down 5 percent from the 2002 lamb crop of 4.36 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2003 totaled 3.68 million head or 89 percent of the yearly total. An additional 450,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2003.

U.S. Cattle on Feed

Cattle on feed July 1, 2003, from all feedlots in the United States, totaled 11.7 million, down 6 percent from the 12.4 million on July 1, 2002 and 10 percent below July 1, 2001. Cattle on feed in feedlots with 1,000 or more head accounted for 85 percent of the total cattle on feed on July 1, 2003.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.92 million head on July 1, 2003. The inventory was 5 percent below July 1, 2002 and 10 percent below July 1, 2001. The inventory included 6.11 million steers and steer calves, down 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.75 million head, down 5 percent from 2002.

Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.68 million, 2 percent above 2002 but 14 percent below 2001. Net placements were 1.62 million. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 374,000, 600-699 pounds were 361,000, 700-799 pounds were 483,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 464,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 2.23 million, 8 percent above 2002 and 5 percent above 2001. Other disappearance totaled 61,000 during June, 20 percent above 2002 but 21 percent below 2001.

U.S. Hogs and Pigs

The June 2003 U.S. pig crop at 8.25 million head, was 3 percent below the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 926 thousand head, 4 percent below last year. The average pigs per litter for June increased to 8.91, compared to 8.89 last year. The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts on July 1, 2003, was 5.76 million head, down 4 percent from July 1, 2002. U.S. sows and gilts bred during June totaled 1.14 million head, down 3 percent from the previous year.

Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during June 2003, down 1% from June 2002, but 3% higher than the previous month's production. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, down from 1,500 head one year ago. The average live weight decreased 14 pounds to 1,157 pounds. During June there were 1,000 hogs slaughtered unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 249 pounds, was up 6 pounds from last year. June sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, up 100 head from June 2002. The average live weight increased 4 pounds to 126 pounds. Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.95 billion pounds in June, a new record high for the month, up 4% from the 3.81 billion pounds produced in June 2002.

Beef production, at 2.39 billion pounds, was 4% above the previous year and was a monthly record high. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.25 million head, up 6% from June 2002. The average live weight was down 19 pounds from the previous year, at 1,217 pounds. Veal production totaled 15.0 million pounds, 2% above June a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 74,000 head, down 3% from June 2002. The average live weight was 17 pounds above last year, at 336 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.53 billion pounds, up 3% from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.75 million head, 3% above June 2002. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 266 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 15.2 million pounds, was up slightly from June 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 229,000 head, 1% below last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, up 1 pound from June a year ago. January to June 2003 commercial red meat production was 23.0 billion pounds, up slightly from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down slightly from last year, veal was up 5%, pork was up slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 11 percent.

U.S. Mink Production

Mink pelt production in the United States in 2002 totaled 2.60 million pelts, up 1% from 2001. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 685,000 pelts. Color class definitions have changed for 2002 pelt production. By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production in 2002 follows: Black - 37.1%; Mahogany - 21.7%; Blue Iris -

19.8%; Sapphire - 7.0%; Demi/Wild - 5.8%. The remaining color classes accounted for 8.6%. Mink pelts produced during the 2002 crop year were valued at \$79.6 million dollars, down 7% from \$85.9 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2002 crop year was \$30.60, down from \$33.50 in 2001.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 2003 totaled 601,000, down 4% from the previous year. Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2003 by color class are: Black - 42.4%; Mahogany - 19.7%; Blue Iris - 16.8%; Sapphire - 6.4%; Demi/Wild - 5.2%. The remaining color classes accounted for 9.5 percent.

There were 318 mink farms producing pelts in 2002, down 3% from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 80 farms, Wisconsin with 69 farms and Minnesota with 33.

Wheat and Barley Varieties

Rampart, a hard red **winter wheat**, moved into first position for 2003, with 461,600 acres seeded. **Neeley** became the second leading variety of winter wheat seeded in Montana after fifteen consecutive years on top. There were 312,800 acres seeded for the 2003 crop. However, total acres actually increased 8% from last year's 289,200, as winter wheat seeding is up 400,000 acres statewide from the previous year. **Tiber** remained in third place with 181,100 acres seeded. Last year 162,000 acres were seeded. **Rocky** remained the number four variety in Montana, with 143,300 acres seeded for the 2003 crop. Rocky accounted for 7.7% of the state's seeded acreage, down 3.4 points from last year. The top four varieties, Rampart, Neeley, Tiber, and Rocky, accounted for 59.4% of the winter wheat acreage seeded for harvest in 2003. The top four varieties seeded for 2002 accounted for 61.9% of the total acreage for the state.

McNeal was the leading **spring wheat** variety seeded for the sixth consecutive year, accounting for over 36% of the acreage, or almost 1.05 million acres planted. That is a decrease of 28% in McNeal acres from 2002, while other spring wheat acreage is down 23% this year. **Reeder** remained in second place with 503,600 acres seeded this year. Last year there were 340,200 acres planted. That is an increase of 48% in Reeder acreage over the previous year. **Ernest** stayed in third place this year with 324,600 acres seeded, compared to 428,400 acres last year, a decrease of 24 percent.

Amidon took fourth place for 2003 with 115,600 acres seeded statewide. The top four varieties, McNeal, Reeder, Ernest, and Amidon, accounted for 68.7% of the spring wheat acreage seeded in 2003. The top four varieties for 2002 accounted for 67.1% of the seeded acreage.

Kyle continued to be the leading **durum** variety for the seventh consecutive year. There were 245,200 acres seeded in the state, accounting for 37.7% of the total acres. **Mountrail** remained the second most popular variety of durum wheat in the state for the third year in a row. There were 222,200 acres seeded or 34.2% of the state's durum wheat. **Ben** held the third place ranking again this year with 31,100 acres seeded or 4.8% of the state total for durum wheat. **AC Avonlea** became the fourth most popular variety this year with 30,300 acres seeded or 4.7% of the state's durum wheat. The top four varieties, Kyle, Mountrail, Ben, and AC Avonlea, account for 81.4% of total acres seeded to durum wheat. This compares with the 77.2% reported in 2002 for the top four varieties.

Montana farmers seeded 1.2 million acres of **barley** in 2003, unchanged from last year. Some 58% of the acres seeded to barley were malting and brewing varieties recommended by the American Malting Barley Association Inc. for use in Montana. **Harrington** remained the top malting barley variety planted in the state for the tenth year in a row. It was seeded on 551.9 thousand acres or 46.0% of Montana's barley acreage. **B 1202** maintained the second place malting variety position for the eighth consecutive year with 57.1 thousand acres or 4.8% of the barley seeded. **Moravian 37** is ranked third among malting barley varieties for the third year in a row with 44.9 thousand acres, or 3.7% of the state's acreage. **Merit** rounds out the top four malting varieties again in 2003, with 43.8 thousand acres, or 3.7% of seeded acreage. **Haybet** remained the most popular forage barley for the fourth year in a row, with 123.1 thousand acres seeded, which accounted for 10.3% of the total barley acres seeded in Montana for 2003. **Westford** was the second most popular forage barley, with 28.5 thousand acres or 2.4% of the state-wide barley acres seeded in 2003. **Baronesse** was the most popular feed barley again in 2003. It represents 4.2% of the total acreage or 50.4 thousand acres for feed barley seeded in Montana for 2003. This is up from the 46.3 thousand acres seeded last year. **Gallatin** replaced its cousin Hector this year as the second most popular feed barley grown. Statewide, 35.7 thousand acres were seeded, which is 3.0% of all

barley acreage.

Montana Wheat and Barley: Percent of Total Seeded Acreage 1998-2003 1/

Winter Wheat						
Variety 2/	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 3/	2003
Rampart	1.8	9.0	13.8	15.9	19.6	25.0
Neeley	20.0	20.8	19.2	22.6	19.9	16.9
Tiber	14.2	17.3	11.3	10.9	11.2	9.8
Rocky	13.4	8.2	6.9	8.9	11.1	7.7
Morgan	2.2	7.0	8.3	10.0	7.3	7.2
Vanguard	10.3	7.0	9.4	6.7	9.1	6.6
Redwin	6.1	4.7	6.4	4.0	5.0	3.3
Big Horn	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.0	1.7	1.8
Nufrontier	--	--	--	--	0.3	1.5
Promontory	0.7	--	--	0.4	0.2	1.4
Winalta	2.9	1.7	1.1	2.1	0.9	1.3
Roughrider	1.3	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.5	1.1
Erhardt	--	0.1	0.7	--	0.4	1.1
Quantum 542	1.0	1.4	2.2	2.0	1.0	1.0
Nuwest **	--	0.5	0.4	1.7	0.9	0.9
Centurk	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.8
Warrior	0.7	1.2	0.4	--	0.6	0.7
Norstar	1.7	1.5	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6
Tomahawk	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.6
Prowers	--	--	--	--	0.7	0.6
Goldenspike	--	--	--	0.1	0.1	0.5
Kestrel	1.3	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.5
Other & Unknown	17.8	12.0	12.4	8.1	7.1	9.4
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
. **Hard white wheat variety.						

Spring Wheat						
Variety 2/	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 3/	2003
McNeal	26.5	40.4	48.8	49.2	38.8	36.1
Reeder	--	--	0.1	3.4	9.1	17.4
Ernest	7.6	9.4	10.7	10.1	11.4	11.2
Amidon	17.2	14.2	10.9	7.8	6.2	4.0
Fortuna	6.5	5.0	4.9	5.1	7.8	3.9
Conan	--	--	1.0	3.1	5.0	3.8
Scholar	--	--	--	0.5	1.9	3.0
Lew	1.8	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.8	2.9
Westbred Rambo	7.9	6.7	5.3	3.2	3.8	2.8
Parshall	--	--	--	0.5	1.4	1.6
Westbred 926	1.8	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.5	1.2
Hank	--	--	--	--	0.3	1.2
Westbred 936	1.6	1.7	3.5	1.5	1.1	1.1
Grandin	6.2	3.1	3.3	1.3	1.3	1.1
Gunner	--	--	--	--	0.4	0.8
Len	1.8	1.2	1.6	1.2	0.8	0.5
Stoa	--	--	--	--	0.3	0.4
Kulm	1.9	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.3	0.4
Hi-Line	3.0	1.7	1.1	1.4	0.6	0.4
Abbey	--	--	--	--	--	0.4
Newana	2.0	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.3
Butte 86	--	--	--	--	0.5	0.2
Other & Unknown	14.2	10.8	3.7	7.3	5.4	5.5
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Durum Wheat						
Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 3/	2003
Kyle	44.5	55.3	52.5	45.3	40.2	37.7
Mountrail	--	--	0.9	9.6	26.9	34.2
Ben	0.2	4.1	7.8	8.0	5.6	4.8
AC Avonlea	--	--	1.4	3.9	3.4	4.7
Lebsock	--	--	--	--	0.3	3.3
Monroe	7.4	4.8	2.9	3.3	1.2	3.3
Ward	1.9	4.4	2.3	3.1	2.8	2.3
Renville	6.0	4.8	5.2	6.6	2.5	2.1
Utopia	--	1.4	5.8	6.6	4.4	1.5
Medora	6.6	3.3	3.5	0.4	0.6	1.0
Voss	4.2	--	--	0.3	0.3	0.9
Plaza	--	--	--	--	0.8	0.8
Kamut	--	--	--	--	--	0.6
Westbred Laker	--	--	--	--	0.2	0.4
Stockholm	0.4	0.4	--	0.5	0.3	0.3
Maier	--	--	--	--	--	0.3
Crosby	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Durex	--	--	--	--	0.2	0.3
Other & Unknown	28.1	20.6	17.3	12.1	10.0	1.2
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Barley						
Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 3/	2003
Harrington*	42.1	49.6	49.9	45.7	47.6	46.0
Haybet	3.0	4.5	6.5	10.2	10.5	10.3
B 1202*	4.7	5.2	5.4	5.6	5.6	4.8
Baronesse	12.1	7.6	6.2	5.0	3.9	4.2
Moravian 37	--	0.1	1.5	3.8	4.3	3.7
Merit*	0.3	1.2	1.6	1.1	2.6	3.7
Gallatin	4.6	4.0	2.2	3.3	1.9	3.0
Westford	--	0.1	1.2	2.7	3.2	2.4
Bowman	3.1	2.7	2.8	2.1	3.0	2.1
Hector	6.8	4.9	3.7	2.7	3.1	1.9
Horsford	2.1	1.7	2.4	1.3	1.6	1.8
Lewis	2.1	2.3	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.8
Piroline	2.2	1.9	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.4
Robust*	--	--	0.2	0.7	0.4	1.2
Stark	0.9	1.9	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.1
Legacy*	--	--	--	--	0.6	1.0
Westbred Xena	--	--	--	--	--	0.9
Valier	--	--	0.1	0.6	1.1	0.9
Metcalfe	--	--	--	--	--	0.6
Chinook	--	--	--	--	0.5	0.5
Excel*	--	--	--	--	--	0.4
Other & Unknown	16.0	12.3	12.8	11.7	6.2	6.5
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
*Variety recommended by the American Malting Barley Association for planting in Montana in 2003.						

1/ Columns may not sum to all varieties due to rounding. 2/ Hard red variety unless otherwise noted. 3/ Revised.

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Quarterly Milk Production

During the April-June 2003 quarter, Montana milk cows produced 84 million pounds of milk, down 2 million pounds from the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cows numbered 18,000 head, unchanged from last year.

Milk production in the 20 major States during June totaled 12.3 billion pounds, down 0.1 percent from June 2002. May revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was down 0.4 percent from May 2002. The May revision represented a decrease of 9 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,587 pounds for June, unchanged from June 2002. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 10,000

head less than June 2002, and 11,000 head less than May 2003.

Milk production in the U.S. during the April-June quarter totaled 43.9 billion pounds, down 0.3 percent from the April-June quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.11 million head, 35,000 head less than the same period last year.

Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 7.05 billion during June 2003, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 5.98 billion table eggs and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 2003 averaged 332 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. June egg production

per 100 layers was 2,122 eggs, down slightly from June 2002.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 2003, totaled 332 million, down 1 percent from a year ago. The 332 million layers consisted of 272 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.60 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 2003, averaged 71.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.58 billion eggs during June 2003, down 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during June, at 310 million, was down 1 percent from a year ago.

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